SPRING CARE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA - Burt Barling

Itching to get out with your Hibiscus? Well this item will take you on a fast trip to the middle of June.

March 25th is normally the last chance for frost in this area, its up to the gamblers or conservatives as to how soon you start.

First job is to get out the pruning shears, cut out the dead wood and then cut back in general till your bush is well shaped. Your gain will be big in new branches and extra blooms to come.

Clean out around the base of the plant, cultivate the ground to loosen soil to the normal spread of the foliage. Now the fertilizer can get down stairs to work. Personally I like to give it a good shot of 6-6-6 50% organic and a dash of sludge. Once that is watered in the next job is to get cow manure and work it lightly into the soil.

Those plants that are small or not firm in the soil, make sure they are well staked so the wind will not blow them around and disturb the root system. Another thing, there are always a few plants that you want to pull up and relocate that are either not doing well or are being crowded out by larger ones. This is the time. Make the new holes large ehough and deep enough to allow root growth. Mix about 1/3 peat with 1/3 cow manure and rotted leaves and 1/3 good soil. Water new plantings in thoroughly and dish around the plant to hold the water. Sit back and watch for new growth to start "busting" out all over. Remember water deep all plants and let them dry well between waterings.

A month later in April things should be shaping up in good shape. Time to think about grafting and new rootings. Look over the new growth on your plants for aphids that are getting active. Use Isotox, one

(Cont'd on next page)

tablespoon to one gallon of water. Do a good job under the leaves too. Its time to think of bloom so change over to 4-6-8 this month.

Remember those new Hibiscus you liked at last season's shows? Now is the time to try and get them in the ground so they will be well established next winter. A word to the wise on these. A lower well branched plant is worth many times more than a tall whippy plant that is not branched. The latter will have to be cut back before you have anything worth much. On planting new plants it is helpful to shade with cheesecloth for a few days till the plant takes hold.

Replace those old worn out tags so you know what you've got. Get at the weeds around your Hibiscus. The weeds are stealing good plant nourishment.

(Next page)

GETTING READY TO PLANT HIBISCUS?

We got them - 6,000 gallon size

300 Choice Varieties - price list available

No scratching around on your hands and knees.
We know what we have and where they are.

BARLING'S NURSERY

Rt. #3, Box 683 - Clarcona Rd.

Orlando, Florida

Wholesale Phone CYpress 3-4276 Retail

The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.